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A list of the NEW LABEL appears on page 5.

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Hongkong, 1st July, 1907.

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Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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## BIRTHS.

On July 1st, at Newchwang, the wife of R. Y. ANSON, of a son.

On July 2nd, at London, the wife of FRANKLIN ANSON, of a daughter.

On July 3rd, at Kuling, the wife of LESLIE J. CURRY, of a daughter.

## MARRIAGE.

On July 2nd, at Shanghai, GEORGE W. CLARK, Lecturer in Chinese, Imperial Chinese University, Teokong-Chinglin Line, Honan, to ISABELLA G. KIRK, of Belfast, Ireland.

## DEATH.

On July 1st, at Shanghai, GEORGE ALFRED VICTOR DICK, of the Great Northern Telegraph Co., aged 33 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOUX ROAD, C.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 10th, 1907.

OUR correspondent yesterday, who signed his letter "Chopped Dollar," is an example of a voice crying in a wilderness, a wilderness of opinion. To a person earnestly endeavouring to form an opinion out of the collective opinions of his fellow residents in this Colony, there comes inevitable bewilderment. Never was such mental chaos betrayed on any local subject; never more diverse ideas more dogmatically expressed; and perhaps never such a unanimous clinging to indefiniteness when the enquirer pushes home questions. It appears there is so little solid data to go upon, so few premises of general acceptance, that the man in the street is only too willing to "save face" by the regressus ad infinitum, or the equally unworthy subterfuge of dismissing the subject with a frivolous verdict supposed to be after the manner of "Mr. Dooley." Our correspondent, to whom we are obliged for calling public attention to what we regard as an inadequate Government movement, is chiefly concerned with the long time it will

take to have any useful effect. That is a good point, for the disease is now in crisis, and the remedy, if any be possible, cannot be waited for. There have been suggestions, proposals, and speeches made, by practical business men, and we are quite sure that those men will not regard the latest official announcement as in any sense a solution of the difficulty. And until they are agreed among themselves with regard to fundamental points, we fear there will not be that clarity which tends to solution. What seems desirable as a first step in the discussion is a watch of axioms, or at least postulates, the theories may follow later. In the past, the ground has been cleared with as many admissions as are possible. Here comes the difficulty of this amazing question, on which "not even the youngest of us" can pose as an infallible authority.

First of all then, comes the official theory, announced in the recent notice, that the stock of Hongkong subsidiary coins is in excess of requirements—the available stock, that is, and that the Government proposes gradually to withdraw from circulation. That the supply of Hongkong subsidiary coins is more than required by the necessities of business in the Colony is, that an axiom, the truth of which is so apparent as to be justly admitted, or is it only an assumption? It is not capable of axiomatic statement, perhaps, but its truth is almost self-evident to those whose business touches the lesser value of our local currency.

When a large heap of subsidiary coins is taken at random and sorted, in due place of business, and the proportion of British coins in the heap found to be not more than two per cent of the whole, that is evidence towards the contrary statement that there is not enough in circulation, in the Colony, for the ordinary requirements of business. When the experiment is repeated at several other establishments, with very similar results, we do not need the generally complimentary impression of the man in the street to warrant us in demanding that it be postulated that the stock available is not sufficient. That brings us to the point that if we are all to buy with the Chinese subsidiary coins, as we would like to do, we should find our business hampered unless the Government at once issued a great deal more, instead of withdrawing from the present supply, or unless it were augmented in some other way. Our correspondent has asserted that such boycott would bring Hongkong subsidiary coins back from Kwantung to shiploads. Is that a postulate upon which we are all agreed, or a mere assertion? It is self-evident that if those shiploads of Hongkong coins do not exist, if they are no longer in circulation in China, they cannot come back. Then we must ask if they do exist. Many well-informed and understanding people believe that the bulk of them were long ago melted down. Better metal than the Chinese coins, it is said the Chinese frequently found their worth more as bullion. Perhaps those of our readers and correspondents who travel much in Kwantung will keep their eyes open, and by experiments such as those mentioned above, ascertain approximately the percentage of Hongkong coins in the circulation in that province. Meanwhile, we have to admit that the proposition is possible both ways—they might flow back, and they might not. If they did, it is yet to be proved that they would return in sufficient numbers to be in excess of the ordinary requirements of the Colony, and if they did so return, the Government could still adopt the tactics it proposes now. Another point is that the Government is afraid they may come back. "Chopped Dollar," points out that it would be in the nature of an "heroic measure" for the Government to redeem any large proportion of the forty million dollars worth it has issued. Doubtless, owing to the shortsightedness which undertook to stock the Chinese empire with subsidiary coinage, and omitted to provide any sinking fund for eventualities, some heroism would be necessary. In this case, however, we suggest that heroism also spells honesty. In issuing those coins the Government made a profit and incurred a debt, an obligation, and it does not seem right that it should repudiate its responsibility by copying the Chinese disrespect for the dies and stamps of the mint. The Chinaman has never learned to trust to the government seal or the Emperor's head, but we have. He estimates the intrinsic value of a coin, and relies on his own estimate. We see the monarch's effigy, and take the word of the government that the coin is worth what it says it is. The present discount on Hongkong coins—and here we are too impatient to weigh axioms and postulates—the present discount on Hongkong subsidiary coins, we

assume and assert, has really nothing to do with supply and demand, but is the result of a dishonest copying of the Chinese pernicious method. The banks at Home levy no such tax on business takings. To the man in the street at any rate, it seems a quite illegitimate and incredibly stupid arrangement that when the Post Office, a Government department, sends a lot of Government money to the Bank, the Bank should be permitted to levy discount, to tell the Government that its own money is so much metal, its own promise to pay worthless. Until the Government faces the consequences of its own past, and determines to do honestly in the present, by admitting that a King's ten-cent piece is worth one-tenth of a King's dollar, and authorizing or ordering the Bank to act accordingly, we do not see that any end to our present commercial worries is in sight. But let the legislators and others interested in the question first gather together all the possible postulates, and afterwards it will seem less heroic to be honest. If a loan be necessary, let there be a loan; the essential thing is to make the King's money honest money, and not, as it is now, a mass of metal whose real value is determined by the operators on the market.

There were only two plague cases yesterday, making 102 to date.

Three more natives have been decapitated at Shanghai in connection with the murder of Police Constable Morrow.

The new Customs House was opened at Tientsin (Tientsin) on July 1st and duty was paid for transportation northwards of many consignments. The Russian Consulate opened on July 5th.

The Chinese Police station at placards in imitation of official proclamations were posted in various parts of the city at Shanghai bearing the following announcement:—"The opium dens which were closed by mistake on June 22nd may be re-opened on July 1st."

Viceroy Shun still hangs on at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Shanghai, although his ten days' grace long ago expired. In addition to many anxious enquiries from Canton, he has received from the authorities at Peking another despatch "hastening his departure."

The possibility of the re-purchase of Weihaiwei by China is again the subject of lively discussion amongst high Chinese officials. Prince Ching is said to be the principal promoter of this affair, as he regards Weihaiwei as the very best naval harbour for the Chinese fleet.

At an entertainment of welcome given at Seoul on June 30th, in honour of Pak Yong-he, a political refugee who has just been allowed to return from Japan to Korea, a band of anti-Japanese assassins attempted to murder him and other pro-Japanese officials. The leader of the assassins committed suicide on the spot.

Three young Chinese—the oldest not over twenty-three—have been arrested by the Peking Secret Service agents in Newchwang as alleged Antimonarchists, engaged on a secret mission from Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the chief of the Antimonarchists, to the Hungtians of Manchuria. The prisoners have been sent to Tientsin for trial and punishment.

An over-zealous Indian Constable was yesterday fined \$10 at the Magistracy for assault. Mr. Hazeland further recommended his immediate transfer from the western district. The defendant, it appeared, arrested a restaurant keeper at Shektauai on a charge of obstruction, but his rough handling of the Chinaman amounted to assault. The restaurant keeper was discharged.

Another case of cruelty to animals was heard before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court yesterday. The night before a cattle sale, a dealer poured salt water down a bullock's throat with the aid of a large bamboo, and kept the animal tethered till morning so that it could not get water. Just before the sale he allowed it a plentiful supply of water, hoping thus to increase its weight. The trick was discovered, however, and the dealer ordered to pay a fine of \$50.

Chinese always endeavour to keep out of the way when a police whistle is blown, and Yau Sik, knowing this, thought to have a night's amusement at Yauwatt on Monday. Seeking the least frequented parts of the thoroughfares he would steal behind unsuspecting passers-by, blow a loud blast, shout, and then give chase. He did it once too often, however, and was arrested. At the Police Court yesterday Mr. Hazeland fined him \$5 for disorderly conduct.

Police officers of the Chinese Municipal Council arrested on July 2nd a man named Hu Shih-shan, proprietor of an alleged closed opium den outside the West gate, Shanghai. The man was charged with having been caught in flagrante delicto admitting two men Tsai Fuh-shan and Shek Ah-pa into his place and supplying them the drug to be smoked on his premises contrary to the recently promulgated opium prohibition laws. Mr. Sun, police magistrate, ordered the proprietor of the opium shop to be beaten 20 blows on the hands and to be chained to his own shop door for forty-eight hours, while Tsai and Shek the two smokers, were given 100 and 150 blows, respectively, on the hands and ordered to be imprisoned twenty-four hours. The implements for smoking were destroyed on the spot.

Mr. Metcalf, Secretary of the U. S. Navy, has left for California for the purpose of investigating the condition of the Naval Dock at Greyhound and Bear Island. Ship-builders on the Pacific Coast have secured by tender contracts for the construction of warships, and Mr. Metcalf desires that at least one battleship shall be built there. His purpose in inspecting the Dockyards on the Pacific Coast is to ascertain if they can undertake ships of that class. The American Army manoeuvres are to include measures for the defence of the Pacific Coast. The Militia will cooperate with the standing army in manoeuvres.

A Tokyo telegram to the N. G. Daily News dated June 29th, said:—"The negotiations between the Chinese and Japanese with regard to affairs in Manchuria have been resumed in a conciliatory manner. H. E. Li Shih-shang, Viceroy of the Manchurian provinces, and H. E. Pang Shao-yi, Governor of Feng-tien, have issued a manifesto which declares that the steady influx of foreigners into Manchuria, due to the opening up of the different towns, is a matter of great congratulation from the point of view of commerce. The proclamation then exhorts the people of Manchuria to cultivate friendly relations with foreigners and to prevent any continuance of anti-foreign feeling."

## VISITORS FROM THE NORTH.

AND THE ALLIED OBJECT OF THEIR VISIT. An interesting case was heard before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court yesterday, the defendant being a woman from Kwangsi who brought with her to Hongkong her two sons and a male acquaintance, the latter, it was alleged, to assist her in selling her children. On Monday evening, apparently in great agitation, the woman appeared at the Central Police Station and told the detectives that a man named Tsing had taken her eldest boy out for a walk, returning later without him. When she asked what had become of her child this man would not give a direct reply, but told her it would be unsafe for her to go out of the house, or she would be set upon by foreigners. She escaped, however, went to the Police Station, and as stated, told the police that her boy had been stolen. The detectives at first were inclined to believe that her story was true, but systematic inquiries revealed the fact that the woman had sold her child to a fatherless gentleman in Newchwang for \$40. This was proved beyond doubt when the purchaser produced a receipt for the money, and the arrest of the woman followed. She appeared before the Court on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences.

Kwong F. P., the man who accompanied her from the north, stated that he did so at her request. The woman told him she wanted to bring her two sons here and sell them.

His Worship:—And you felt pleased? Witness:—Not much pleased.

His Worship:—What made you come down then?

Witness:—It was such a good chance. Proceeding, witness said an agreement was come to with a local man who purchased her boy for \$40. He did not share in the profits.

His Worship:—It is questionable whether this is a case of false pretences.

Inspector Hanson:—The defendant came to the Police Station after having sold her child for \$40, made a false report, and wanted to get her child back.

His Worship adjourned the case to hear further evidence.

## KULANGSU (AMOI) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, on the 18th June 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace, C. A. V. Bowra, V. Kruse, Hung T'an-shew, S. Okyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1. The minutes of the last meeting are read, and confirmed.

2. The Superintendent of Police reports a series of robberies which have taken place recently, and he is directed to ascertain from the British Consul whether some arrangement cannot be come to, by which the Police would be furnished with photographs and detailed descriptions of all bad characters deported to Amoy. He is also directed to come to some more satisfactory arrangement as regards the Maf.

3. On the motion of Mr. Bowra, it is decided to drain and fill in some low lying ground opposite the house occupied by Mr. Armour, and to improve the drainage of the road.

4. The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Assault 2, Fighting 1, Debt 4, Obstruction 1, Failing to report a case of plague 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Committing a nuisance 2, Assault 1, Perjury 1, Theft 1, Burglary 2, Not carrying a light after midnight 3, Failing to report a case of plague 1, Obstruction 1, Being found on enclosed premises 1, Being a rogue and a vagabond 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE, Chairman.

By order, C. BERKELEY MITCHELL, Secretary.

## LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The I.G.M. str. Roan which left here on Thursday the 4th July at 6 a.m. arrived at Singapore on Monday the 5th July at 2 p.m.

The I.G.M. str. Freuden left Kobe via Nagasaki and Shanghai on Monday the 8th July at 3 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday the 17th July a.m.

The G. N. S. Co. str. Minnesota arrived at Yokohama on Sunday the 7th July at 6 p.m. and will leave for this port via Kobe, Nagasaki and Shanghai on the 14th July, and is expected here on the 23rd July.

## TELEGRAMS. HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

[DAILY PRESS "EXCLUSIVE SERVICE."]

## OBITUARY.

LONDON, July 9th.

Sir Spencer Walpole, K.C.B., is dead, aged 68 years.

(Sir Spencer Walpole was clerk in the War Office, 1838; Inspector of Fisheries, 1837; Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man, 1832; and Secretary to the Post Office, 1833-39. His publications include a history of England from 1815; the life of the Rt. Hon. Spencer Perceval; Life of Lord John Russell, and History of Twenty-five years in two volumes.)

## THE SAN FRANCISCO SCANDALS.

LONDON, July 9th.

Mr. Schmitz, ex-Mayor of San Francisco, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

## THE ANHUI OUTRAGE.

SHANGHAI, July 8th.

The Governor of Anhui is dead. He was killed by a revolver shot, not by a bomb, as at first reported.

The murderer allowed himself to be arrested. He is an anti-monarchist.

## THE GOVERNOR SHOT.

SHANGHAI, July 8th.

The Governor of Anhui is dead. He was killed by a revolver shot, not by a bomb, as at first reported.

## MR. ASQUITH ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

LONDON, July 7th.

Mr. Asquith speaking at the Bankers' dinner, said that the financial position was reassuring, the revenue was coming in satisfactorily, and even the railways showed excellent returns; there were no signs of impending stringency, and the apprehension of legislation, involving danger to the investor was without foundation. Neither he, nor so far as he knew would any of his colleagues, ever participate in legislation threatening the security of any form of public or private investment or the essential foundations of commercial or financial stability.

## DOCKERS' STRIKES.

LONDON, July 7th.

A Dutch cruiser has been despatched to Rotterdam in consequence of the more serious aspect of the situation caused by a strike of Dock hands, and another cruiser will follow with a large force of Marines for assisting the police.

The Dockers at Cherbourg have also struck for an increase of pay.

## CONSERVANCY JUNK ON FIRE.

LONDON, July 7th.

The junk was lying off the Bowington Canal, and it is alleged that the ex-coxswain and three other men put off in a small craft at about one o'clock and rowed to the conservancy boat, carrying with them a tin of kerosene. Climbing on board the junk they seized the coxswain, the only person on board, and bound his arms to the mast. Then the ex-coxswain and his men proceeded to pour the kerosene over the deck. When the tin had been emptied a match was applied, and as soon as they saw the fire had hold, the four men who are now wanted, headed their sampan to the westward, a launch belonging to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, which happened to be passing shortly afterwards, observed the outbreak and hastened to render assistance. Their efforts were successful, for the progress of the fire was stayed before more than \$15 worth of damage had been done. The coxswain, it appears, managed to free himself from his bonds after his enemies left, and leapt over the side. He also was rescued. Strange as it may seem, however, he did not report the occurrence to the Wandai Police until after six o'clock that evening, thereby giving the alleged perpetrators of this malicious act time to escape. The police, however, are making diligent search for the offenders.

## WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 9th at 12.05 p.m.—The barometer has risen generally, particularly over N. China and S. Japan.

The depression lying over the Sea of Japan yesterday appears to have filled up.

The highest pressure probably lies over the Pacific to the E. of the Loochoos. It exceeds the normal by about 0.1 inch over the China coast, Formosa and the Loochoos.

Moderate S.E. winds are likely to prevail in the Formosa Channel, and the N. part of the China Sea.

Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.01 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

Hongkong & Neighbourhood S. to S.W. winds, light or moderate, showery.

Formosa Channel S. to S.W. Same as No. 1.

South coast of China between Hongkong and Lamook Sam: as No. 1.

South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan Same as No. 1.

## CHINESE CEMETERY AT APPLICAN.

The report by the committee consisting of the Hon. Registrar-General and Messrs. Pang Wa Chua and Lau Chu-pak relative to a site on Apichan being used as a public cemetery for the Chinese is now under consideration. The site is a public cemetery for the Chinese is now under consideration. The site is a public cemetery for the Chinese is now under consideration.

## THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND MOTION.

The President's second motion, and the motion was agreed to.

A letter from the PRESIDENT was read relative to a question put by Mr. A. Shulton Hooper, asking:—Was it a fact that notices were always served for the abatement of a nuisance before prosecution? The letter was as follows:—

The case referred to by Mr. Hooper of the tenant of No. 476 Queen's Road West, having been presented in December 1906 for the erection of a building without the previous sanction of a notice, falls under part 3 of the Ordinance, and the prosecution was instituted with the sanction of the Building Authority. The house was a new one—just completed, in which the erection of a building is absolutely prohibited by the Ordinance.

The other three summonses mentioned by Mr. Hooper were taken at the same time for the same block of houses. His Excellency in the same No. 25 of 1907 was referring to the Sanitary Board notices. This was the case of a Building nuisance, and the service of a notice in connection with a building nuisance is not compulsory, as provided in section 23. The Building Authority, however, informs that he has issued instructions to the effect that notices are to be served in all such cases in future, previous to prosecution. I have forwarded a copy of this minute to the Colonial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

Mr. Hooper inquired:—His Excellency did not evidently grasp the recommendation of the Commission, as it was to meet the case mentioned under the proviso of section 23 that the Commissioners made such recommendation.

Mr. Hooper:—Sir, In advocacy of my minute, and why I think His Excellency did not grasp it: the recommendation was that in no case should a prosecution be allowed unless notice to abate a nuisance had been served on the owner or occupier. The reply to that was that such notices were always served in cases of nuisances. That is what made me ask, and produce the cases I did at the last meeting. I as one of the commissioners, and I think my colleagues, meant the recommendations for the future. It is not a matter of the past, so I think His Excellency did not quite grasp the question. He was alluding to the Ordinance as it exists to-day, and the proviso contained in proviso 3.

The PRESIDENT:—The matter will be considered in connection with the Amending Ordinance.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO STANDING ORDERS. It will be remembered that, in response to the letter from the Colonial Secretary, the Sanitary Board resolved to ask the Crown Solicitor to draft a new standing order to meet the case of a member who might be pecuniarily interested in a subject under discussion. The following standing orders were submitted by the Crown Solicitor:—

Any member may join in the discussion of any question in which he is or may be pecuniarily interested, but he may not vote upon any such question and shall withdraw before the question is put to the meeting.

In case of doubt as to whether a member is or may be pecuniarily interested, in any question before the meeting, the member concerned shall withdraw and the meeting shall then decide whether he is interested or not.

Mr. HOOPER inquired:—I take it that the Board is asked to make the proposed additions to the Standing Orders under section 14 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and as our power to do so is limited to make Standing Orders for "regulating its procedure at its meeting," it appears to me that to make an order disenfranchising any of its members or calling upon any of them to leave the room would be illegal.



The President—I have seen the Crown Solicitor on that point again this morning, and he agrees with me that it is competent for the Board to make these orders, because he thinks, as I do, that voting is part of the procedure of the Board. Therefore, I move that the two standing orders be added to the standing orders in force for the guidance of the Board.

The Vice-President seconded.

Mr. Hooper—I beg to move an amendment that the matter stand over until our next meeting, and that in the meantime the Government be asked to take the opinion of the Attorney-General. I may say, Sir, that it has been laid down by Mr. Justice Lush that practice in its just sense is like procedure, and denotes the mode of proceeding by which legal right is enforced as distinguished from the law which gives or defines the right. I am here, by law. The Ordinance gives power to the representatives of Hongkong to send to this body two representatives, of which I am one, and we have the power given us, no more and no less than that contained in the Ordinance—that we shall have notice of the Board meetings and attend here; that we shall vote, and that we are entitled to be present at every meeting. There is no qualification whatever. And for my colleagues here among themselves to press a by-law or a subsidiary law and to request me to leave this room, a power which one of those standing orders gives them, is a gross injustice, not to myself, I don't care for myself, but to my constituents. Why should I not be allowed to be present on the occasion of voting when the President is allowed to be present? One of your own members ordered out of the room. It is a position which if taken up is untenable. With regard to the other standing order on voting, I may say I am quite with the Government in principle. I think, for any member of the Board to deliberately give a vote in favour of himself, or on any motion in which he is pecuniarily or directly interested, would be a very immoral and improper thing to do, and I would like to ask, Sir, whether during the time you have been president of this Board, you have ever known of such a thing being done. Speaking for myself, within the last eighteen months I have never known of one such case. Of course, if this is passed for any member of the community to go to the Courts to sue, but that is an expensive thing which I don't think should be pressed on any member of the community by the Government of Hongkong, because after all it is initiated by the superior Government, and not nominated from ourselves. I would therefore move that the matter be postponed, that the Government be communicated with and forwarded a copy of my remarks, and that the opinion of the Attorney-General be taken.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAN—I beg to second the amendment. It is a very reasonable one.

The President—I am prepared to accept the amendment and refer the matter to the Attorney-General for his opinion.

Mr. Hooper—I would like it to go through the Government with a copy of my remarks that they may know the reasons which actuated me.

The President agreed.

THE CONSERVANCY OF THE CITY.

The reports drawn up in 1880 and 1895 relative to W. C. in the city were circulated.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER introduced—Totally different conditions obtain to-day to those which existed in 1880 or even in 1895. We should deal with each case on its merits.

Mr. H. HUMPHREYS—I am in favour of allowing water closets in all dwellings that are provided with an ample water supply which is quite independent of the Government service, especially in I in favour when the houses are situated on the hillside or at the Peak. Under the present system a good deal of the sewage of the hill districts which is supposed to be carried away by culverts to the conservancy boats find its way into the various nullahs of the Colony. I am, however, opposed to the system being adopted universally on account of the difficulty of obtaining sufficient water, and also because it would be almost impossible to make the occupants of Chinese tenement houses keep the privies in a sanitary condition. I agree with everything contained in Mr. Crook's letter of February 20th, 1907.

Mr. Hooper—I would like to ask the Water Authority whether there is any more water available for public use to-day than there was in 1895?

The Water Authority did not reply, and the report was laid on the table.

THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS.

Correspondence was submitted relative to a report by a committee on the height of buildings.

The Registrar-General wrote thus to the Secretary: A report on the height of buildings which should be erected was made by a sub-committee of the Board in 1905. This report seems to have been lost sight of lately. I suggest that a copy be circulated among the members of the Board, and that a copy of this report be put together with other reports on the subject, and left for reference on the table.

Mr. Hooper introduced—Each case should be dealt with on its merits.

The President—A new system of keeping records has been adopted, and if any member wants to see reports he will be able to.

OUR WATER.

The report of Mr. Frank Browne, the Government Analyst, on samples of water taken from the Pokfulam, Tytan, Kowloon, and Cheungshawan services showed that the water was of excellent quality.

ANOTHER SANITARY IMPROVEMENT.

There was further discussion on the application for the erection of latrines in back yards.

The President—Seventeen applications were considered at a meeting since the last meeting of the Board, and in sixteen out of the seventeen the Medical Officer's recommendations were

supported, but one of the members opposed them. In other words, he considered that the applications should be granted, not refused. I wish to ask members what their intention was?

Mr. Hooper—I admit I was in the minority, but letting alone the question as to whether the Board intended to give us power to act or not, I would like to tell the Board what actuated me in coming to my conclusion.

Professor Simpson in his report on plague in Hongkong furnished suggestions as to remedial measures. He advised the Government to make a law with regard to latrines, and as a result of that suggestion I would refer you to sections 163 and 165 of our present Ordinance (reads). I think, Sir, on the face of the recommendation of Professor Simpson to the Government, and the Government having given effect to it by those two sections of the Ordinance, that you have no right to ask us to take away the latrines from those houses. I won't say it is quite illegal, but it seems to me to be adopting the course the Government did not wish us to, and which was not approved by Professor Simpson.

The Registrar-General—I think the committee should be given full authority to deal with these cases. It would save a great deal of time.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAN—I don't think we should go so far as that. I think that in any question where the members of the committee don't agree, the matter should be referred back to the Board.

The President—The Medical Officer of Health points out that all of these buildings are old.

Mr. Hooper It is the duty of the Board under this section to call upon owners to provide us in accordance with the Ordinance. Otherwise we establish our position.

The Registrar-General moved that the Board delegate to a committee consisting of the President, the Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. Hooper and Mr. Fung Wah-chun, authority to deal with all applications to maintain or erect latrines in back yards under section 15.

The Captain Superintendent of Police seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A QUARTER PETITION.

The petition from Leung Tat Hing of 231 Hollywood Road asking that he be allowed to continue his trade there, the Board having ordered him to discontinue using the door as such, was read. It stated: "That your petitioner begs to state that he has been carrying on the trade of drying sausages and meats on the above floor over twenty years which is quite clean and no offensive matter thereon, so he begs that the notice may be withdrawn for which he will be ever grateful. He dares further to state that the address No. 231 Hollywood Road mentioned in the notice is the place which he now occupies but the name Chung Shing Tso which differed from his name, Leung Tat Hing, and he does not know whether it is an error."

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Mortality statistics were submitted. They showed that for the week ended June 1st, the death rate per 1,000 of the British and foreign community was 16.1 and for the whole Colony 20.8, as against 14.8 and 20.1 in the corresponding week of last year, for the week ended June 8th, 12.3 and 24.1 as against 3.0 and 37.1 and for the week ended June 15th, 26.7 and 21.3 respectively as against 24.9 and 24.6.

THE PROPOSED SHANGHAI EXHIBITION.

As the proposal to hold an International Exhibition of Foreign Manufactures in Shanghai bids fair to meet with a generous measure of support in Europe, America and Japan, as well as in British Colonies, the work of building up a local guarantee fund has been started, and the following sums have been guaranteed. It is suggested that the Exhibition should be held in 1908, and consequently no time should be lost in securing the requisite guarantee fund, which is only a preliminary step towards the larger task of inaugurating a successful Exhibition.

The amounts guaranteed on July 4th were—

Jardine, Matheson & Co. Ltd. 5,000

The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank 5,000

A. R. Barkill & Son 1,000

Robert & Co. 1,000

Anderson, Meyer & Co. 1,000

Gibb, Livingstone & Co. 500

D. Siffert, Esq. 500

12,500 2,000

THE USES OF ADVERTISING.

Newark, Del., and Waynesboro, Penn., are linked to-day by one of those little romances which prove the whole world kin. The particular romance which links Newark, Del., and Waynesboro, Penn., is the additional advantage of showing what any one may pick up by advertising. Mr. White, of Newark, advertised for a wife. His announcement ran: "Advertiser, forty even, divorced, with good habits, iron will, and flashy temper, wants a little woman to help him pull in the dollars. No chronic scrapper need answer." At first glance this candid piece of self-analysis has not that touch of charm which might be expected to fascinate the little woman in search of a matrimonial prize. An unsympathetic little woman might even paraphrase it: "Advertiser, emerging from middle age, with foolish, self-love, money, sulky and stubborn, with foolish temper, wants female miscreant for second wife and unpaid servant. No woman of spirit need apply."

But have reads these tender announcements with eyes which are not those of the common-place world, and we are surprised to find that only forty young females responded to that advertisement. An heiress was among them—a very direct descendant of "Silent" Smith, the great millionaire. Few men in search of a little woman to help pull in the dollars could resist her accomplishments. There was a proposal, an acceptance, and a dual confession. "I" said she of Waynesboro, Penn., "have twelve thousand dollars of my own." "And I," said he of Newark, Del., "have considerable property." What more complete romance of twentieth-century courtship could be wanted?

Which, as we have said, shows what any one may have the luck to pick up by advertising—American paper.

## JAPAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, June 28th.

JAPANESE COMPANY REPORTS.

With every recurring half-year the foreign investor in Japanese companies receives a quantity of matter through the post consisting of notices of shareholders' meetings, powers of attorney, dividend warrants and, in the case of big companies, bulky pamphlets containing the half-yearly report. All of this matter, interesting as it should be to the foreign recipient, is unintelligible to him because it is printed in Japanese. As foreign capital comes to be more freely used in the country, perhaps the Japanese will find a graceful way of overcoming this difficulty.

Apart from foreign influence in a few big concerns in Japan, such as the new Anglo-Japanese Steel, Portland, the foreign investor in the role of ordinary shareholder in scores of companies is playing a more important part in the country every year. This is suggested by a recent return giving the number of such investors and the shares they held. Of course the proportion is small compared with the total capital, but it is growing. The total shares of 84 leading banks and other companies, for example, is given as over eight millions, and of these over 90,000 are held by foreigners, amounting in capital value to nearly five million yen.

In the Tokyo Electric Railway Co. alone foreigners own over 20,000 shares, and half of these are held by an Australian financier. The fact that foreigners, mostly resident in the country, are so widely interested in Japan's leading industries would seem to be a good reason why such companies should give English translations of their reports—English being the one language understood by all foreigners, and which is becoming more and more familiar in Japanese business life. A little concession in this direction would not only be appreciated by the foreign investor but would result to the ultimate benefit of the companies, in making them better known abroad and in so doing encouraging the inflow of capital, which is so much desired. It is difficult to imagine that with the growth of international business relations the leading Japanese companies will be content with the present medium for presenting their reports to an international public. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha (whose shares foreigners cannot legally hold) and one or two other companies have long realised the value of preparing their reports in English as well as in Japanese, and the time is arrived for this good example to be followed.

THE BANKS AND THE STOCK MARKET.

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